

REMARKS

The Applicants hereby submit the present Amendment and Request for Reconsideration for the above-referenced patent application, entry of which is earnestly solicited. The application was originally filed with claims 1-30. Claims 24-30 have been withdrawn. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 14, 15, and 15 have been amended, claims 3, 4, 16, 17, and 19 have been canceled, and new claims 31-49 have been added. Thus, claims 1-2, 5-15, 18, and 20-23, and 31-49 are pending in the present application for consideration after entry of the amendment. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by this amendment. The amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed.

In the Office Action mailed on 6 January 2006, the Examiner objected to claims 3, 6, 16 and 19 as merely being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In response, the Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's assessment and submit that such claims should be broadly protected as warranted by law.

With respect to such indicated allowability, the Applicants amend independent claim 1 (spin valve sensor claim) with the limitations of allowable claim 3 for the allowance of claims 1-2 and 5-13, and amend independent claim 14 (disk drive claim) with the limitations of allowable claim 16 for the allowance of claims 14-15, 18, and 20-23.

Similarly, the Applicants add new claims 31-37 (spin valve sensor claims) which are associated with allowable claim 6 and add new claims 38-44 (disk drive claims) which are associated with allowable claim 19. Since these new claims 31-37 and 38-44 correspond to indicated allowable subject matter, new claims 31-44 should be allowed.

Further, the Applicants add new claims 45-49 which are similar to the above-indicated allowable claims and include the limitation that "the capping layer structure [comprises] a pure cobalt layer without iron content." These claims should be similarly allowable.

Additional reasons for allowability for dependent claims, as one ordinarily skilled in the art will readily appreciate, are not further articulated herein.

Based on the above, the Applicant submit that all pending claims 1-2, 5-15, 18, and 20-23, and 31-49 are allowable over the prior art of record and that the present application is now in a condition suitable for allowance.

Thank you. Please feel free to contact the undersigned if it would expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. OSKOREP
Reg. No. 41,234

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JOHN J. OSKOREP, ESQ.
ONE MAGNIFICENT MILE CENTER
980 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE, SUITE 1400
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611 USA

Telephone: (312) 222-1860 Fax: (312) 475-1850